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Business owner sent to prison in death of man

By Dan Wallach | October 28, 2013 | Updated: October 28, 2013 10:52pm

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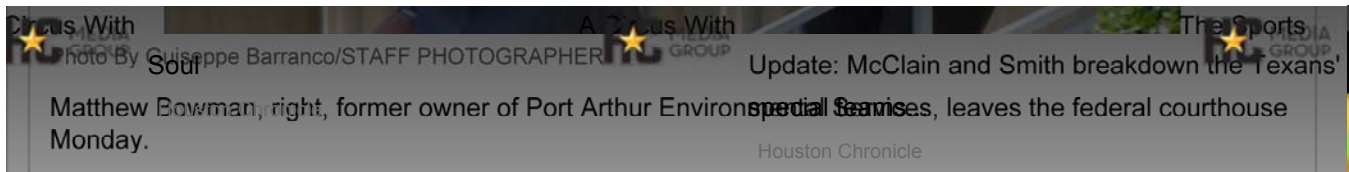
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BEAUMONT — The former president and owner of a now-defunct environmental services business will spend a year in federal prison after pleading guilty to an occupational safety crime that resulted in the death of a man, a federal judge ordered Monday.

Matthew Lawrence Bowman, 41, of Houston, was president and owner of Port Arthur Chemical and Environmental Service Co. when truck driver **Joey W. Sutter** died of asphyxiation and poisoning from inhaling hydrogen sulfide gas on Dec. 18, 2008.

Another driver, **Charles B. Sittig**, died four months later from a heart attack resulting from inhalation of hydrogen sulfide, federal court documents show.

A federal grand jury last year indicted Bowman in connection with the illegal transport of hazardous material and failure to protect workers from exposure.

Documents falsified

"Bowman admitted to not properly protecting his employees from exposure to hydrogen sulfide, a poisonous gas," said U.S. Attorney **John M. Bales** of the Eastern District of Texas in a prepared statement.

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Bowman admitted telling employees to falsify transportation documents to conceal that the wastewater was coming from the company's Port Arthur site. A disposal facility had scalled a halt to all shipments because it was receiving loads containing hydrogen sulfide.

Bowman was president and owner of the Port Arthur site on Texas 82, just north of the Intracoastal Waterway bridge and along the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel, just downstream from a refinery and chemical plant.

Bowman also owned a site in Houston called **CES Environmental Services**.

Caustic material sold

The Port Arthur site operated from November 2008 until November 2010, selling caustic material to paper mills.